

# Let Freedom Ring

# CMLC Liberator

Now \$10  
per year.

## Just Say No!

### To the War on Austria!

Let me be the first to say it. I am opposed to the war against Austria. What's that you say? You didn't know we were planning to invade Austria. Well, we haven't announced it yet, but it is starting to seem more likely.

The Clinton administration has shown disapproval over the Austrian's choice of a leader, who was chosen in a plurality (like Clinton). There is more and more media coverage that is intended to vilify Joerg Haider and make him the new international whipping boy. This is following the same pattern that was used with Hussein, Khadafi, Noriega, Milosovic, and God knows how many others. You remember how those turned out.

If there is a close race in the presidential election, look for VP Gore to assume an unusual position of responsibility when tensions heat up. By the time bombs start to fall on historic Vienna, we will all be convinced that we are saving the world from the next Hitler. Evidence of this is a couple of quotes made by the new president, for which he was forced to apologize.

I would like to see some consistency in our nation's foreign policy. If we are going to play Globocop, we have to be fair. We started a huge war when Iraq invaded and occupied a sovereign country. However, when China did the same thing with Tibet, we couldn't care less. In fact, we saw the administration become even chummier with the Chinese military.

(Continued on page 2)

## Our Web Pages

<http://www.wmlp.org>

<http://www.cmlc.org>

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Libertarian owned-Libertarian operated  
Provider of internet services

## Libertarian Party of Tennessee Plan For Growth

....Charles Wilhoit (Chair, TNLP)

The primary objective of any political party is to build a voter base sufficient to elect the party candidates to public office, the most important of which are candidates for the U. S. Congress and the Tennessee legislature.

A basic LPTN county organization will require a minimum of three *Libertarian Party* members for each *voting precinct* in each county. The *County Chair*, then, is the *kingpin* in party growth. The *Chair* makes things happen!

Although we are just beginning, we are making good progress. We are few in numbers. We can't expect to raise large sums of money. Good! Now we can afford to be different.

We are going to build from the *bottom up*. We are going to depend on *Libertarian volunteers* for most, perhaps all, of the work. The ultimate payoff is that our party will then be controlled from the *bottom up* instead of the *top down* as in the major parties.

Your starting point is the Libertarian Party National (LPN) database for your county, which lists your dues-paying members. It also lists those prospects who have requested and received information from the LPN Headquarters.

(Continued on page 3)

**Member Al Wilcox is running for State Representative. Guest Michael Froimo-witz, 704 Washington, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA 01003 (mfroimow@cs.umass.edu) is probably running for State Senate. Guest Speaker Terry Franklin may be running for State Representative in Amherst.**

**A friend is someone who helps friends do things. Why not help our friends with their campaigns?**

while you were thinking is gone forever. Indeed, modern pedagogical research shows that lecturing has an efficiency of under 10% for transmitting information. 90% of what is said when you speak to someone is not remembered.

Electronic mail is also the fastest communication method, especially for a larger audience. Most people read at least as fast as they can talk. Voice recognition technology is bringing us to the day when people will generate text ("type") as fast as they can talk, namely by speaking words aloud and having the computer transcribe them.

Sometimes you need to settle emotionally heated questions. Sometimes you need to resolve issues in which words are understood differently by different players. Sometimes the unwritten vocal emphasis on different parts of a sentence becomes important. Under these conditions, face to face meetings are a more effective way to produce agreement. In the future, internet television may become nearly as effective as personal contact.

*To Be Continued*

REMOTE ARCHIVES AND PARALLEL ANALY-



### Be A Secret Agent For Liberty

Why don't *you*, yes, *YOU*, do something for the Libertarian Movement? Why not take 30 seconds to *Stand Up for Liberty!* right here in the Commonwealth.

*Be a Secret Agent for Liberty! gives you a way to do that!* Our new recruitment—advertising program doesn't ask you to get conspicuous. It doesn't ask you to get in a political argument. All we are asking you to do is to take the enclosed trifold and put it up on a bulletin board someplace.

The enclosed trifold has our address and contact data. Put it out where people will see it: a library bulletin board, the coffee room at work,... Anyone who is ready to take another step for Liberty will find our address and contact information herein. Through the PVLA/CMLC secret agent program, you can do your bit for Liberty without risking personal confrontation.

### Who Are We?

The Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association is Massachusetts' oldest local Libertarian organization, with regular meetings since 1995. The PVLA and its sister Central Massachusetts Liberty Coalition work to advance freedom across Massachusetts' 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Congressional Districts, stretching from Williamstown to Dartmouth. Read about the PVLA and CMLC at <http://www.wmlp.org> and <http://www.cmlc.org>.

First Class Mail

When Yugoslavia attempted to bring order to a rebellious province (with heavy-handed authority), we bombed them back to the Stone Age. Yet, when Russia did the same thing in Chechnya, we looked the other way. Oh sure, Albright voiced some disapproval. But when boozed-up Boris babbled something about nuclear weapons, our administration tucked its tail between its legs and cringed in fear. We haven't heard a peep out of them since, despite the well-documented atrocities in Grozny. They are even more afraid of Putin.

The implications of this are frightening. We are becoming the playground bully of the world. If we can pick a fight with someone small and weak, we will quickly bloody his nose and boast about our victory. However, if we have to fight with someone our own size, we conveniently decide that we don't want to fight. The rank and file of the American military may be brave but the Federal Government, the Pentagon and the majority of the American people appear to be cowards.

I was born in 1957. That means that I don't remember Pearl Harbor, when an American territory was attacked. In all the dozens of wars, invasions, bombings, missile attacks and covert operations that have taken place since I was born, the United States has been the aggressor. (For clarity, I have removed embassies from consideration).

The people of this country should be shown what war really is. The video wars shown on the news have all been sanitized for our protection. Perhaps if we had bombs raining down on schools and hospitals in our own neighborhood, we wouldn't think it was so cool. With American cities devastated and American children incinerated, people might consider peace as a viable option.

Somehow, we are convinced that bombs in suitcases and rental trucks are terrorism; yet, when death falls in the form of a cruise missile, there is no terror. The office buildings that we bombed in Belgrade and Baghdad had essentially the same function as the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City. Doesn't that make us terrorists too?

.....Pit Warren

First, contact your members by phone or in person. Tell them that you seek their help in getting the County Party organized. *Do not write them a letter.* It is a waste of time and money. There is absolutely no substitute for personal contact.

Next, begin to contact the prospects just as you have done with the members, using as many members to help you as possible. Obviously, the reason for contacting the prospects is to persuade them to join the LP and become active members of the County Party. What you have started will become an ongoing situation because you will be receiving regular updates to the database. Get the system set up and stay with it.

When you feel that you have a sufficient number of members to warrant meetings, start having them. Obviously, the sooner the members get acquainted with each other the better.

Your next step is to start your local recruiting. Right away you are going to be tempted to dream up all sorts of media events to tell your public about the Libertarian Party. Stop! There is a better, more direct way and the expense will be almost negligible compared to media events. Winning the next election will get you all the media attention you could want. Sixty-four percent of the registered voters did NOT vote in the last congressional election. This indicates to me that they are probably so disenchanted with the two major parties that they don't want either of them. If even half of them turn out to be Libertarians and we can convince them to vote for Libertarian candidates, we can win.

Go to your county *Registrar of Voters* and obtain a list of the registered voters who failed to vote in the last election. These are your most logical prospects. Arrange your list into *precincts*. Assign your members to his/her own precinct, give them brochures and get them started calling on these registered voters. Before they start, though, be sure they have listened to the three-tape set *The Essence of Political Persuasion* by Michael Cloud. A large number of people will join the Party if they are asked to do so in a direct manner.

Now remember, I didn't tell you it was going to be easy. It surely won't! Your members are going to be basically lazy and reluctant to get involved. *Keep talking* until most of them are convinced that *there is no other way to get their Libertarian candidates elected*. If they finally realize there is no way they can divert you from the path you have elected to take, they will be forced to join you or forced to *step aside!*

***These are my suggestions and they are based on my experience. I feel very strongly about what I have written, simply because I have "been through the mill" and know what works and what doesn't work. Of course, you are under no obligation to follow these suggestions. It's entirely up to you. Don't hesitate to challenge me or ask questions.***

.....Charles Wilhoit

# Membership Statistics and Winning

From: Hardy Macia <hardy@catamount.com>

[Editor's Note: These are LPUS Membership statistics by state: number of members, members per million population, growth as a change in number of people or as a percent, and the number of new members per person living in the state. The list is the top five in each state. Following that is what of one of our fellow Libertarians living in Vermont said about this.

Number	Density	#Growth	%Growth	Growth/pop
CA 6244	NH 291.1	OR 5	OR 0.8	OR 1.5
FL 1654	NV 269.0	ND 0	ND 0.0	ND 0.0
PA 1573	AK 224.8	AK -1	OH -0.5	OH -0.5
TX 1567	VT 218.3	DC -1	AK -0.7	IL -0.8
MI 1539	WA 208.8	SD -1	IL -0.9	SC -0.8

Hey list,

I'm competitive. I don't like to lose. I don't like to be in second place let alone fourth place. So,...

Renew if you haven't renewed,

Join if you haven't joined,

Sign up your spouse if they aren't signed up,

Sign up your children if they aren't signed up,

Sign up your parents and in-laws if they aren't signed up,

Don't use force or fraud, but you can use other leveraging tactics...

## Who Are We?

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The Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association meets monthly at Bickfords Family Restaurant, Old Boston Road, Springfield. Bickfords serves dinner, breakfast, and a full range of desserts. Meetings start at 7PM, with a working meeting at 8PM.

The Worcester County Libertarian Association meets the third Sunday at Tweed's Restaurant, Grove Street, Worcester, at 6PM. [This is not the Tweed's Restaurant on Route 9, Shrewsbury.] Bring a friend. WCLA organizers include Kevin Haskell, City Council candidate Jerry Horton, and George Phillies.

The PVLA and CMLC web sites are hosted by Excell.net (<http://www.excell.net>) a locally-owned, locally operated internet service provider offering solutions to people and businesses in the Pioneer Valley. Why not patronize a fellow Libertarian? See [www.excell.net](http://www.excell.net) for excellent internet service.

(For example: Dear Mom, I know you are libertarian on 99% of the issues but have an issue or two you are still not comfortable with, but we need to build the party so large this year that we can get the 99% part of the message out to the public that you are comfortable with. Besides, if you don't join then I won't call or visit you every again.)

Note the very small push at the end that might work very well with mothers ;- ) either that you'll really piss them off and be written out of their will. Be creative people join for a lot of different reasons. You just have to find the thing that moves them from sitting on the fence to standing on the ball field.

Here's what we need to catch up...

3rd place we need 133 members

2nd place we need 159 members

1st place we need 173 members

and once we get to first place we need some additional goals so ...

to break the 300 density barrier we need 178 members

to break the 400 density barrier we need 237 members (each of us getting one more person to join)

to break the 500 density barrier we need 295 members  
.....Hardy Macia

Do you care about privacy? Find out what you can do to help protect it. Libertarians for Privacy: <http://www.catamount.com/rc5/>

## Membership Recruitment and the Members

[More Pages from George Phillies' Book.]

How can you recruit members? You can try to move people from one membership activity to another, from reading web pages to joining the JPFO, the ACLU, or their local Libertarian club. All member groups are valid parts of the Libertarian movement. Persuading people to join one more libertarian group does strengthen that group a bit. Persuading people to join one more Libertarian group makes it more likely they'll hear about about Libertarian efforts to change laws and put Libertarians into office.

Bringing a person into contact with one more group makes it one bit more likely that he will hear the one message that persuades him to Stand Up for Liberty! When the correct logical appeal (perhaps the cry that sets fire to the member's heart or the right reminder of our Republic's glorious heritage and national patrimony) reaches the right member, that member will be-

come an activist.

However, shuffling members from Libertarian group to Libertarian group by itself has only secondary effects on the Libertarian cause as a whole. If all you do is to move Libertarians from one group to another, there are no more Libertarians than there were before. Recruiting Libertarians to join your group \*may\* help your part of the Libertarian movement. However, unless your new member becomes more active because he joined your group, your group is stronger only because you weakened another part of the movement.

Members are a burden as well as a strength. They must be reached. They must be reminded to renew their memberships. Their votes must be counted in any internal election. If you have enough members, these burdens require dedicating additional activists to servicing the members, hiring part- or full-time staff, or perhaps using professional mailing and outsourcing services.

No matter what your size, additional members are an additional burden on your limited corps of activists. No matter your group's size, there are costs to having extra members. Members consume resources, resources that would not be consumed if membership were smaller. Careful planning can overcome many of these costs. Dues can be set to compensate for the expense of servicing additional members. Careful attention to marginal costs will ensure that extra members are a net benefit rather than a net burden.

Adding members to your group does not strengthen your group where it is probably weakest. Adding members does not give your group more specialists and activists, the people every Libertarian group needs to compete with the millions of activists of the duopoly parties. Adding members -- the Membership Recruitment strategy -- is by itself a feeble reed on which to build a Libertarian majority.

Of course, every member of a group might become a specialist or an activist, and contribute directly to the creation of the Libertarian future. You can always hope that members will be activated by chance. That's a pure recruitment strategy. You build up a membership club, and hope the members become activists. Alternatively, you can use the strategy that makes membership activation a fundamental objective. That strategy is Local Organization.

**\*Candidates, Staffers, Volunteers, and Voters\***

I return to a theme of Chapter 4:

The Purpose of a Political Party is ]

\*to Advance Its Agenda,

\*to Run Candidates and Win Elections, and

\*to Use Electoral Victory to Put Its Program into Effect.

If we fulfill this purpose, we are the Libertarian Party. If we do not run candidates for office, we are not a political party at all, just a group of party-goers.

Recruiting candidates is critical to Libertarian victory. We need 400,000 candidates, give or take, to contest the 400,000 political offices that exist across the country. (We may get by with a few less, because we may be able to abolish some of those offices before we elect our people to them. We can't count on that advantage.)

Why do we run people for office? We run people for office because we want to elect them, so they can move the United States in a Libertarian direction.

However, we also run people for office because every political campaign has benefits beyond winning elections.

Candidates are not enough for victory. Each candidate needs a campaign staff. Staffers are the people who do the hard work needed to elect our candidates to office. Until our candidates have campaign staffs, they will run for office but rarely win.

In a successful theater company, for every star performer there is a technical company behind the curtain. In electoral terms, the star is the candidate, and the company is her campaign staff. We do need to develop our star actors. Just as important, we need to develop our technical companies. A successful party develops campaign staffs as well as candidates.

To get a Libertarian electoral majority, we need the Alphabet, the Numbers, and the V's of Chapter One. To get a Libertarian electoral majority we need campaign advisors, donors, petitioners, leafletters, and every other sort of campaign staff member. The staffers are the people who stand behind the candidate, doing the hard work of getting her on the ballot, raising money, advertising her stands, and turning out the vote. Except in very local races, a candidate without a staff is going to have to work very hard to win.

Beyond the staff, we need volunteers. Volunteers are the people who will spend time on a campaign, but will not devote their lives to it. They will carry a petition and collect 50 signatures. They go out for an evening walk, Friday before the election, and leave campaign leaflets on every door. They put a sign on their

front lawn, or show up at the polling place, march out the legally appointed distance, and hold high a banner supporting their party.

Candidates, staffers, and volunteers all have the same objective. They are the people who get us voters. Remember: We can have the most wonderful candidates, the most perfectly polished platforms, and the greatest campaign staffs ever assembled. If the other guy gets more votes, we still lose. To win, we must assemble voters.

How do we get volunteers and staffers, the people who will get us the voters? "Build it and they will come" is a risky strategy for business investment. "Run and they will help me" is a risky strategy for a budding politician.

What is the safer strategy? We must go to libertarians of every sort! We must persuade them to get active in politics! We must ask our Libertarian friends -- not just LPUS members, but gun owners and gay activists and opponents of the insane war on drugs -- to help us. Our message is "Our campaigns are your campaigns." "Our victory is your victory."

"Base the campaign on asking Libertarian friends to help" is internal outreach. A campaign based on internal outreach goes to our members, the people who do a little for the Libertarian movement. Internal outreach gives members of every libertarian group concrete reasons to transform themselves into volunteers and activists. Internal outreach gives our campaigns a second purpose beyond winning, namely developing the campaign staffs who will bring us victory in future campaigns.

*Summary*

How do we best reach members' hearts and souls? How do we make activists of them? There is no more effective way to change a person's behavior than to put them in a community that teaches right behavior by example. How do we get libertarian members into a community? We enlist them in a local organization, so they see activists working to Make Freedom Happen! The effective path to members' hearts and souls is through Local Organization. When members see they personally can make a difference, say in a friend's campaign for local political office, they too may Stand Up for Liberty! and become activists.

Members, specialists, and activists each have their role in the Libertarian Party. Member-voters will eventually put us into office. Specialists and activists will create the situation in which we have enough member-voters to elect us. Local organization will mobilize our

members, turning them into the specialists and activists that we need. Local Organization at the same time will generate the new members who are our future activists and voters.

Members, specialists, and activists all have roles to play in Local Organization. Members are the bedrock on which the Libertarian movement will be built. They contribute their votes, their moral presence, perhaps a little money, and in a variety of ways their good names. Specialists take the roles they choose for themselves. Some roles are more important than others. In the construction of liberty, a specialist may be a load-bearing column or the baroque gargoyle atop the parapets. In the Libertarian edifice, activists are the tie rods and the mortar, holding together the Local Organization and providing its walls, floor, and ceiling.

Local Organization and local campaigns provide the basis for internal outreach. Internal outreach recruit staffers for our local candidates. Local Organization takes maximum advantage of our one real strength: Our supply of highly motivated, intelligent, passionate believers in freedom. Local organization and internal outreach will generate the candidates, the staff, the volunteers, and the votes needed for election victory.

We do not have the incumbents or the masses of money, but we do have our most important resource. We have our people. We have people who can be persuaded to join a campaign, especially if we ask them to perform a well-defined task in a well-explained way. We have people who are ready to collect signatures, distribute leaflets, and maintain web pages, but only if we convince them that this year they should become active in the party. Local Organization is the strategy that mobilizes our members, transforming them into the activists and specialists who will bring us Libertarian Victory.

We are the outsiders looking in, so we do not have the hordes of incumbents waiting for near-certain re-election. We oppose corporate welfare and massive government spending, so we will never receive the special-interest donations that the duopoly parties enjoy. It is through the people-based local-organization strategy that we will win.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Aside: Local Organization and Internal Outreach mobilize people. In order for Libertarians to be strong candidates and effective campaign staffers, their Party must provide effective support and educational tools. We need to convince members that they should Stand Up For Liberty! by petitioning for our

candidates. We equally need to teach members how to petition effectively. Education and technical support of Libertarian volunteers by local, state, and national organizations are a key element of the Local Organization Strategy.]

## *Chapter Nine*

### *Victory Includes the Internet*

The song may say this is the age of Aquarius, but in truth the Third Millennium will be the age of the electron, the photon, and the digital bit. Electronic media are having more and more of an impact on elections and political lobbying. Jesse Ventura mobilized campaign support with a 10,000-volunteer electronic mailing list. The Libertarian Party created a web site to defeat the FDIC Know Your Customer proposal. A typical FDIC proposal draws 200 or 300 public comments. Know Your Customer drew 225,000 comments, more than 99.9% negative, 170,000 demonstrably coming from the Libertarian Party's web site. In 1996, only a small percent of likely voters used the net. By November 2000, over half of all likely voters will do so.

The Libertarian Party boasted it was the first major political party to have its own web site. If Libertarian Party wants to reach for political victory through the Internet, the time to act is now. Early internet adopters (EMail, Usenet newsgroups, World Wide Web) lean heavily toward a libertarian philosophy and the Libertarian Party. As the number of users increases, the libertarian inclination of internet users will decline. The total number of Libertarian users of the net will doubtless continue to increase, but targeted recruiting of online users will be less efficient when more people use the net.

Furthermore, so long as a substantial fraction of net users have libertarian inclinations, one can hope to turn large parts of the net into a libertarian community. In an electronic Libertarian community, Libertarian principles and ideals are the norm, statist policies of the duopoly Party are denigrated exceptions, and new net users find a community with accepted moral and political principles. The net cannot coerce thought or behavior. It can make people more comfortable with the Libertarian ideals of freedom and self-government.

To establish a libertarian community, we are not going to demand unanimity of political belief. Such a demand is incompatible with the net's self-organization and with Libertarian philosophy. When the Internet is a Libertarian community, people of every political philosophy will use the net. There they will routinely encounter Libertarian ideas. Newsgroup posters of every

inclination will receive responses from people who interpret posts with a libertarian perspective in their points of view.

New Internet users are younger and more exploratory people, whose political beliefs are less likely to be rigidly fixed. Such people are prime candidates for Libertarian recruitment efforts. The Internet is far more promising as a recruitment area than, e.g., talk radio's audience of 50, 60, and 70-year-olds, few of whom are interested in changing their political party.

I am not saying that we should not take advantage of talk radio, which has proved to be highly accessible to Libertarian speakers. Talk radio is an excellent way to reaching radio listeners who are ready to Stand Up for Liberty! by joining the Libertarian Party. We should continue to use talk radio to our advantage. However, it is more important to use media that reach the politically uncommitted. The famous "South Park" ad from the Kubby for Governor campaign illustrates the media style I am advocating.

Applications of the internet include web pages, Libertarian newsgroups, and internal communication. Electronic data transfer permits remote data archiving and multiple analyses of the same information. Emerging technologies such as Internet radio and video conferencing will play roles in the future. Each application has important positive roles to play in building a stronger Libertarian movement. Here I consider how the Internet helps Libertarians to communicate with each other and with potential voters, building Local Organization and Libertarian Victory. More technical uses are discussed in the Chapter 14 on information management.

#### *Web Pages*

Web pages are the internet equivalent of an encyclopedia. We can't put a first-rate campaign manager into the headquarters of every Libertarian candidate, but web pages give us many of the same advantages at an infinitesimal fraction of the cost. Web pages are on call when you need your questions answered. Web pages hold the facts, and the index needed to find the facts, until you call. Web pages can be highly effective in transmitting campaign kits that tell people how to run for office, reducing the perceived barrier between individual volunteers and getting on the ballot. Web pages can give local candidates incredible non-financial resources of every sort: formats for trifolds, sample press releases, fundraising scripts for making telephone calls,...

Web pages are an advertisement for their authors.

We should make sure that www.lp.org is the world's best political web site. If you're on the web and want to read about politics, you should want to start with our web pages, incidentally getting exposed to Libertarian ideas.

One could go overboard with web pages. A person maintaining a set of web pages is not out on the stump, going door to door to support his candidate. However, the web pages maintained by one member of a large group may well reach more people than the maintainer could reach by going door to door.

One professional estimate indicates that with a reasonable budget the Libertarian Party in one large state could use online community building skills to attract 40,000 libertarians to state party activities within a two year period. With no budget, the same process will take substantially longer. Other states have corresponding opportunities. Libertarian volunteers could usefully set up a web site telling other activists how to do the same thing. A significant challenge is to show activists that online methods can reach people who aren't on line. Funding such efforts should be a major priority for Libertarians, because a strong activist base leads directly to a strong voter base in future elections.

Web campaigns can be highly effective at propagandizing against attacks on Liberty. The Party's Defend Your Privacy web site generated more than 170,000 messages opposing an FDIC proposal to turn your bank into a Federal spy on every detail of your life. We should repeat this success by running more Web and Internet propaganda campaigns. Look how successfully the (non-Libertarian) Postal Service EMail Tax hoax propagated itself. Real ideas, well presented, can be transmitted as effectively as hoaxes, not only for Federal issues but for local issues like corporate welfare to sports stadiums.

There are open invitations from commercial internet operations for people to create a set of Libertarian pages for their users. Associate web managers find and attach links to other web pages, constructing an intelligent bibliography for the use of readers. The Libertarian activist who supports a first-rate set of links may be doing more for the movement than many other activists around the country.

***Usenet News Groups***

Take Back The Internet. The wags say 'the Libertarian Party rules the net.' This is a bit of a stretch. There are \*.libertarian news groups on the internet. Those news groups are useless, swamped with cross-posts

and riddled with trolls. (This is a non-partisan issue. The \*.Democratic and \*.Republican groups are just as bad.)

The Libertarian Party should protect a small part of the net. There is a technical fix for ineffective Libertarian newsgroups. Create a \*moderated\* newsgroup to supplant the unmoderated group. An appropriate activity for a national organization is to perform the technical fix by group-creating and by finding good moderators. The moderator(s) (you'll need several, but the support software is in existence) are there to block off-topic threads and pointless trolling, not to prevent debate. To be credible, moderation cannot be done by the National Party itself. Perhaps one can enhance the credibility of the moderated group by creating a second newsgroup that would post most messages rejected by the moderators. (I shall be the first to encourage the occasional appearance on the moderated group of the well-known Anti-Libertarian FAQs and their refutations. These FAQs inform many Libertarians about critiques that can be made of their ideas.)

***Internal Communication***

Electronic mail is an effective way to mobilize volunteers rapidly. EMail lists of volunteers can rapidly be told what could usefully be done soon. During the 1996 campaign, a volunteer ran an EMail list which alerted Libertarians to electronic political polls, so that the Libertarian point of view was properly represented. Similar Email lists can turn out volunteer efforts on other topics.

EMail is an effective way to help run a local group of citizen politicians who cannot take days from family and job to attend meetings. The Email lets much of the same work get done by people who stay at home with their families, thus letting people who show up for work every day build Local Organization in their home towns. To negotiate a document, make a complex analysis of an issue, or do fine-detail word-smithing, electronic mail combines the precision of paper and the speed of speech.

The core issue is that the screen and the printout are overwhelmingly superior to voice transmission for transmitting complex information, because you can go back and reread things you did not understand the first time. And when you have finished re-reading, you can pick up where you left off without losing the thread of the message. In contrast, a speaker says things and moves on, leaving no possibility for re-listening. If you spend a few moments thinking about what you just heard rather than listening, whatever the speaker said